

During her tenure with the Bay Model, Chris was an integral member of the management team, leading critical improvement projects, including a \$16.5 million renovation that featured the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's largest solar installation. Hosting 150,000 visitors a year, the Bay Model has long been a pinnacle of community education, and with Chris's exemplary ambassador skills, its significance grew. She fostered and developed partnerships across the local community, government entities, and educational groups. When COVID-19 presented an unprecedented challenge for education centers like the Bay Model, Chris sprang into action, converting the facility into a space for manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Between April and May of 2020, 10,000 face shields were shipped from the Bay Model, directly supporting the pandemic response during a pivotal time for the Nation.

In addition to her exemplary service to the Bay Model, Chris is a dedicated volunteer, sharing her skills and energy as a valued member of the Sausalito Rotary Club, Sausalito Chamber of Commerce, the Sausalito-Sakaide Sister City program, and several other city boards and committees. This service has been recognized with numerous accolades throughout her tenure, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

The breadth and depth of Chris's professional and volunteer career are inspiring, and her many positive contributions will continue to impact the community for years to come. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Chris for her enduring service and extending heartfelt congratulations on her retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bay Model Visitor Center and best wishes on her next endeavors.

HOMETOWN HERO—MIKE E.  
SIMONDS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike E. Simonds, Senior Chief at Tarrant County Sheriffs Office. We congratulate Senior Chief Simonds on his retirement after dedicating 42 years of service to the citizens of Tarrant County, including 21 years with the Arlington Police Department.

Senior Chief Simonds has served an instrumental role in our community and state through years patrolling our streets, keeping drugs out of our cities and ensuring murderers were put behind bars. His unwavering commitment is unmatched, from assisting in the implementation of the nationwide Amber Alert Program, to helping develop the number one Human Trafficking Unit in North Texas, to building a robust Narcotics Unit, to growing the largest Auto Theft Task Force in the state.

Senior Chief Simonds served the last 5 years as the first Senior Chief for the Tarrant County Sheriffs Office with honor and integrity, bringing exceptional leadership to the agency.

I thank Senior Chief Simonds for his leadership and the lasting impact he has made with our law enforcement partners. He serves as a

role model and mentor to future leaders maintaining the highest of standards. I congratulate him on his retirement and lasting memory of a career of service.

RECOGNIZING INSPECTOR CHRISTOPHER WELSH OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 28 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2022*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on April 21, 2022, Inspector Christopher Welsh retired after 28 years of distinguished service from the Florida Department of Corrections Office of the Inspector General. Christopher has distinguished himself as leader in his selfless dedication to the law enforcement profession, leaving each post and every person who has worked with him or under his leadership better off. He will be missed by all those who have had the privilege to serve with him.

Christopher began his career with the Florida Department of Correction as a Correctional Officer at Broward Correctional Institution in 1994. He quickly moved up the ranks and by 2007 he was promoted to Inspector at the Martin Correctional Institution handling cases involving employee misconduct and malfeasance within the Florida Department of Corrections. In 2015 he was promoted to Lead Inspector in the Region 5 area where he trained and mentored new inspectors. In 2021 he was again promoted to Inspector Supervisor in Region 5 area and retired in 2022.

Mr. Welsh's noteworthy career extends beyond his time at the Florida Department of Corrections. Before serving in the FDC, Mr. Welsh served as a police officer in the United States Air Force and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. We are grateful for his military service. He is also a graduate of the Law Enforcement Academy and a Criminal Justice and Standards training Commission Certified Instructor. Mr. Welsh is a man of faith having served as the Youth and Family Minister at our Savior Lutheran Church in Plantation, FL, and is also an avid volunteer with a decades long commitment to giving back to his community. He coached the wrestling team at Sebastian High School and has coached baseball and football in local recreational leagues.

Mr. Welsh, a hardworking father dedicated to his faith, his family, and his community, embodies the American Dream and all that makes this nation so great. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Christopher Welsh and his exceptional career on the occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF THE STROUDSBURGS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2022*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs

as its members celebrate its 100th anniversary. The occasion will be celebrated with a dinner on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort.

On June 9, 1922, prominent businessmen and professionals gathered at the Penn Stroud Hotel to meet with the state Kiwanis Club organizer to discuss chartering a Kiwanis Club in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. On June 19, 1922, the Club was officially chartered with A.R.J. Wallace elected president and the Penn Stroud Hotel chosen as the headquarters for meetings. Charter Night was celebrated on July 20, 1922 by Club members and delegates from Kiwanis Clubs in Scranton, Easton, and other cities. That first year featured a Ladies' Night, five social events, a joint meeting with Rotary and a Rotary-Kiwanis golf match, youth and adult service activities, and projects to support the community.

Committed to the Kiwanis mission of improving the lives of children, the biggest project done by the Club during its first two decades was the Stroudsburg playground. The Club also financially supported a swimming pool and the East Stroudsburg playground, establishing recreational facilities used by hundreds of children in the region. To encourage literacy, the Club purchased the first bookmobile. The Club also supported several adult activities and actively engaged with the community.

Today, the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburg continues to uphold the original mission of its founders to serve children of the world and their own community. A highlight of the year is the annual Pancake Day event to raise money to support their scholarship program. This year, due to the event's great success, the Club awarded 12 scholarships to high school students in Monroe County totaling more than \$12,000.

As they look toward their next 100 years, the Club is planning to honor the first projects completed by the Club by enhancing six local parks with accessible playground equipment so children of all needs and abilities can enjoy the outdoors at the community's parks and playgrounds.

I am honored to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs for 100 years of giving back to the Monroe County community and supporting our region's youngest citizens. I wish them great success and many fulfilling years to come.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF PLANTERS DAYS

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2022*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a community I serve, Woodland, Washington, and the greater Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as we celebrate the centennial of Planters Days.

This festival, which began 100 years ago, has withstood the test of time and has been a bedrock event in this community. Originally, the festival was created to celebrate the construction of dikes along the Columbia and Lewis rivers to prevent flooding and allow farmers to safely plant crops. The first Planters Day was a single-day event, which included tours of the recently completed dikes,